



The London Gazette

EXTRAORDINARY.

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THURSDAY, MARCH 17, 1814.

WAR DEPARTMENT.

Downing-Street, March 17, 1814, One A.M.

AN Officer has arrived at this Office, bringing dispatches addressed to Earl Bathurst, of which the following are copies :

Copy of a Letter from Admiral Young, commanding His Majesty's Fleet in the North Seas.

MY LORD, *Impregnable, March 15, 1814.*

I CANNOT send forward the accompanying dispatch without offering your Lordship my most hearty congratulations on the excellent intelligence it conveys.

I have the honour to be, &c.

(Signed) W. YOUNG.

Right Hon. Earl Bathurst, &c. &c. &c.

Copy of a Letter from Captain Charles Hamilton Smith, Deputy Assistant-Quarter-Master-General, to Earl Bathurst, dated Brussels, March 13, 1814.

MY LORD,

HIS Excellency Sir Thomas Graham having permitted me, in case of any important occurrence, to address myself directly to your Lordship, I avail myself, I hope with propriety, of this indulgence, because the quantity of ice in the rivers of Holland, together with the continuance of easterly winds, might retard a dispatch going round by Helvoetsluys, and prevent intelligence of the greatest importance reaching His Majesty's Ministers.

In consequence, I take the liberty of enlosing to your Lordship an extract of a letter from His Serene Highness the Duke of Saxe Weimar, Com-

mander in Chief of the allied Russian, Prussian, and Saxon forces in the Netherlands, to Count Lottum, Governor of this city, containing an extract of a letter from Marshal Blücher, which should have been dated the 10th instant, but which by some inadvertence has been omitted.

As your Lordship may possibly not be in possession of the previous measures of Marshal Blücher, I beg leave to add, that when I left the Duke of Saxe Weimar, on the morning of the 10th, at Tournay, he directed me to inform His Excellency Sir Thomas Graham, that he had received a letter from Marshal Blücher, dated Laon the 8th inst. at seven P.M. informing him, that he had that day concentrated his forces, consisting of the corps of Bulow, D'Yorck, Kleist, Winzingerode, Langeron, and I believe Woronzow, in all, ninety thousand combatants; his left occupying the commanding point of Laon (that city standing on a conical hill), and his right extending to the small fortress of La Fere; and that a battle was inevitable.

It appears that General Winzingerode had suffered some loss on the 7th, but during the active operations which had taken place since the Marshal had broken up from the vicinity of Meaux, the enemy had likewise lost considerable numbers, and among others Marshal Victor, General Grouchy, La Marque, and another, had been severely wounded.

I send this letter through the enemy's posts in Flanders, to Admiral Young, who I hope will be enabled to forward it immediately to England, with my most sincere congratulations on this decisive event.

I have the honour to be, &c.

(Signed) CHARLES HAMILTON SMITH,
Captain, D.A.Q.M.G.

Right Honourable Earl Bathurst.

(Translation.)

According to the plan of the High Allied Powers, all the different corps d'armée were to concentrate themselves, in order to form two great armies. For this effect, some momentary retrograde movements were necessary. The army of Marshal Blücher concentrated itself near Laon, having opposed to it Napoleon, at the head of eighty thousand men. A courier, who arrived yesterday, brought information, that the Field-Marshal had resolved to give battle on the 9th; and this moment a second courier is arrived, bringing the following account:

This morning, before daybreak, the enemy attacked my right wing and centre, under the orders of Generals Winzingerode and Balow; and, under favour of a thick fog, he penetrated quite under the walls of Laon. Towards noon, when the fog cleared away, the two corps above-mentioned moved against the enemy, engaged in intersected ground, a very sharp affair of infantry; and gained ground till nightfall.

Towards three in the afternoon, the enemy's columns appeared on my left wing, took the village of Althies, and cannonaded briskly the corps of D'Yorck and Kleist.

Having foreseen this event, I sent the corps of

Langeron and Sacken to reinforce the left wing, with orders to assume the offensive, in conjunction with the corps of D'Yorck and Kleist.

Generals D'Yorck and Kleist fulfilled this object with their known ability. The enemy was totally overthrown at nightfall: his artillery, ammunition waggons, and a great number of prisoners fell into our hands.

General D'Yorck reports to me at this moment, that he is still in pursuit of the enemy, and that his cavalry has already driven them in the greatest confusion to Corbeny.

I hasten to communicate this news to your Most Serene Highness.

P. S. Up to the present time, seventy pieces of cannon have been already taken. The numbers of prisoners and ammunition waggons cannot yet be calculated. The victory was decided principally by a brilliant charge of my cavalry. My left wing passes the Aisne this day. It is not known positively if Napoleon commanded in person. Most of the prisoners assert that they saw him; but deserters say that he set off on the night of the 8th, with fifteen thousand men, in the direction of Paris, the grand allied army, under the orders of Prince Schwartzberg, having taken Fontainebleau.

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